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Country programme document

Lebanon

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Lebanon is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$3,744,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$123,268,968 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2020.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.



Programme rationale

1. The Government of Lebanon can celebrate its substantial achievements that have benefited over one million disadvantaged children since 2011. However, today, in 2016, the country is in a major transitional period. With the Syrian conflict in its sixth year, the struggle of Lebanese poor to withstand the resulting social, economic and political impact becomes ever more intense. The systemic resource and capacity gaps that persist across the country, affecting access to and quality of social and protective services for children and their families, have been amplified by the Syrian conflict and the influx of Syrians. This situation has been made worse by a stagnant zero-growth economy (as of 2015), the threat of insecurity, widespread poverty,¹ and political uncertainty that has left Lebanon without a president in office for over two years. As a result of all these factors, the Government, civil society and the international community have agreed to develop durable crisis response strategies prioritizing the strengthening of the country's national institutions, systems and organizations.
2. Before the Syrian crisis, Lebanon was on track to achieve most of its Millennium Development Goals on primary education (Goal 2), gender equality (Goal 3), child mortality (Goal 4) and maternal health (Goal 5). However, the internal disparities in Lebanon mask the reality for the poorest households, many of whom have not seen progress.² Notably, progress on national poverty (Goal 1), remains constrained, with 8 per cent of Lebanese living under \$2.40 per day (2004) – far from the 4 per cent target for 2015.³
3. Almost one and a half million disadvantaged children live in Lebanon⁴ and over 80 per cent of them reside in just 15 per cent (251) of cadastres⁵ in the country. These children include 470,000 Lebanese and almost one million children from other nationalities, including 540,000 Syrian refugee children registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)⁶ and 122,000 Palestinian⁷ refugees.⁸ Approximately 34 per cent are under 5 years of age, 52 per cent are 6 to 14 years of age, and 14 per cent are 15 to 18 years of age.
4. Over 80 per cent of the most disadvantaged Lebanese and non-Lebanese children live in urban areas, and over 60 per cent live in the largest towns and cities.⁹
5. In terms of migration, more than 10 per cent of Syrians in Lebanon have taken concrete steps to reach the countries of the European Union or the United States of America.¹⁰

¹ Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2015–2016: Total people in need economically, socially and legally vulnerable.

² UNDP (2007), *Poverty, Growth & Inequality in Lebanon*.

³ UNDP (2013), *Lebanon MDGs 2013–2014*.

⁴ LCRP 2015–2016: Total poor Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinian refugee children (0–18 years) is 1,396,790.

⁵ Lebanon has 1,561 cadastres covering an area of 10,452 km². Cadastres are the lowest-level official geographic boundaries used by the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS).

⁶ UNHCR registration database (2016).

⁷ Lebanon hosts Palestinian refugees. UNICEF programme covering Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is outlined in the regional Area Programme Document 2014–2016 (E/ICEF/2014/P/L.7).

⁸ LCRP 2015–2016: Total people in need economically, socially and legally vulnerable.

⁹ Largest towns and cities are Beirut, Jbeil, Tripoli, Baalbak, Zahle, Saïda, Nabatiyeh and Sour. Source: National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory (NPMPLT).

6. Reporting, measuring and analysing multidimensional child poverty remains challenging, hampering the development of effective policies and integrated national and local responses. Given the magnitude of the population influx since 2013, national mechanisms that provide essential information on the situation of children and women across various population cohorts and governorates are urgently required.

7. Children and adolescents with disabilities are at high risk of violence, discrimination and exclusion. Risks are exacerbated in emergency settings and when there are no targeted interventions in place. In Lebanon, a data gap on disability persists, limiting targeted interventions aimed at improving the situation for children and youth living with disabilities.

8. Social protection remains fragmented and characterized by a lack of national consensus on safety net mechanisms. The relatively new National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) focuses on Lebanese households, but lacks adequate social protection coverage. Furthermore, existing humanitarian cash programmes focusing on Syrians are not necessarily child-focused, nor are they able to adequately mitigate negative coping strategies impacting children.

9. The health and environmental impact of the Syrian crisis is evident, with a marked increase in communicable and waterborne diseases disproportionately affecting children, particularly those aged 0-4 years.¹¹ As an example, out of all reported hepatitis A cases, 80 per cent involve children.¹² While Lebanon stays polio-free, measles immunization coverage rates remain constrained at 79 per cent for Lebanese children¹³ and 59 per cent for Syrian children.¹⁴

10. Although severe acute malnutrition remains uncommon, Lebanon has been categorized by the World Health Organization as a country in early nutrition transition, with widespread micronutrient deficiencies, moderate levels of undernutrition in specific populations and age groups, and suboptimal infant and young child feeding practices.¹⁵ There is no national infant and young child feeding policy to guide child nutrition during the first two years of life. Exclusive breastfeeding rates are low in Lebanese communities (27 per cent for boys and 23 per cent for girls) and among Syrians (31 per cent for boys and 36 per cent for girls). Approximately 20 per cent of Lebanese children aged 6-17 months meet the minimum dietary requirements, but as few as 3 per cent of Syrian children.¹⁶

11. Similarly, water and wastewater systems in Lebanon, following decades of under-investment, have been unable to cope with a surge in demand, particularly during periods of water scarcity. A result of the Syrian influx, from 2011 to 2015 Lebanon has experienced increases in demand of 10 per cent in water, 16 per cent in solid waste removal, and 11 per cent in wastewater treatment.¹⁷ Up to 70 per cent of natural water sources in Lebanon are bacterially contaminated.¹⁸

¹⁰ World Bank (2016), *Survey of Syrian Refugees and Host Communities in Lebanon*.

¹¹ MOPH (2015), *2014-2015 Surveillance Bulletin*.

¹² MOPH *ibid*.

¹³ WHO and UNICEF (2015), *Estimates of national immunisation coverage in Lebanon*.

¹⁴ WFP (2015) *VASyr*.

¹⁵ WHO (2011), *MENA Regional nutrition strategy 2010-2019 and Plan of action*.

¹⁶ UNICEF (2016), *Baseline Survey*. Syrian children are sampled from the UNHCR registered refugee database.

¹⁷ MOE, (2014), *Lebanon Environmental Assessment of the Syrian Conflict and Priority Interventions*.

¹⁸ MOEW (2010.), *National Water Sector Strategy*.

12. As for education, the Lebanese public education system hosts almost 150,000 Syrian students.¹⁹ However, approximately 50,000 Lebanese (28,000 boys and 22,000 girls) and 184,000 Syrian children (90,000 boys and 94,000 girls)²⁰ of primary school age (6-14) remain out of school. Only 27 per cent of Lebanese and 19 per cent of Syrian children 3-5 years of age attend public preschool.²¹ Increases in allocation of public funding for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education have been frozen since 2005, a critical example of inadequate public sector expenditure. What is more, physical, cognitive, and learning needs of children with special needs and disabilities are largely unaddressed.²²

13. In terms of child protection, boys, girls and women in Lebanon continue to be significantly affected by exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence, including gender-based violence.²³ As a direct impact of the Syrian crisis on children, the worst forms of child labour²⁴ and child marriage²⁵ are increasingly being used as coping mechanisms in response to poverty and social exclusion. Physically violent discipline in the home is widespread, with young children most at risk. Rates of such discipline are 45 per cent for Lebanese and 74 per cent for Syrian children under age 2,²⁶ with no significant difference between boys and girls. The prevalence of child marriage among Syrians in Lebanon has increased to 39 per cent in 2016 compared to 13 per cent in pre-conflict Syrian Arab Republic.²⁷ The high incidence of detention of minors results from the absence of legal provision for diversion and alternative methods of detention.²⁸

14. The socioeconomic situation of many disadvantaged Lebanese and non-Lebanese youth continues to deteriorate, with an estimated 34 per cent unemployment rate among Lebanese youth.²⁹ A 53 per cent unemployment rate among Syrian youth (64 per cent female and 49 per cent male)³⁰ presents economic and protection risks not only to youths but also to the economic health of the country. The lack of livelihood opportunities has contributed to families turning to negative-coping mechanisms such as school dropout, child marriage and exploitative child labour.

15. Many of the issues affecting rights of the most disadvantaged children and women in Lebanon are linked to behavioural and social factors. These include limited trust in public services, lack of knowledge of the impact of child labour and non-completion of school, child marriage, social norms regarding disabilities, and increased physical and emotional violence as a consequence of conflict and displacement.

¹⁹ MEHE, REC meeting 26 January 2016.

²⁰ UNICEF (2016), *Baseline Survey*.

²¹ UNICEF *ibid.*

²² Handicap International & Help Age International (2014), *Age and Disability Monitor*.

²³ SGBVTF, LCRP, October 2015.

²⁴ UNICEF (2016), *Baseline Survey*.

²⁵ UNICEF *ibid.*

²⁶ UNICEF *ibid.*: Syrian women aged 20-24 years old reporting marriage before 18 years of age.

²⁷ UNICEF *ibid.*; UNICEF (2006), *MICS Syria*.

²⁸ Lebanese Penal Code Law 422/2002.

²⁹ World Bank (2015), *Promoting Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity: A Systematic Country Diagnostic*.

³⁰ UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNHCR and SCI (2014), *Situation analysis of youth in Lebanon affected by the Syrian crisis*.

16. The previous country programme supported by UNICEF was transformed by the Syrian crisis from being a small programme focused on niche policy and advocacy investments to amounting to a complex large-scale crisis response.

17. From the outset, UNICEF approached the Syrian crisis from an equity perspective, aiming to meet humanitarian needs by expanding service provision through public institutions. This approach has enabled the leveraging of resources, opened up policy dialogue and strengthened cost-effective service provision by the public sector. A key lesson from the current programme is therefore the need to ensure orderly investments in system-strengthening and capacity development in the new programme.

18. Finally, UNICEF has seen the value of its investments in innovative monitoring and information-management systems to generate robust evidence on the situation of children, improved accountability and reporting on results. A notable example is the 2016 national household survey, which was representative of all children in Lebanon at governorate level. UNICEF aims to build on these efforts to develop national and subnational systems to monitor the situation of all boys and girls across the country.

Programme priorities and partnerships

19. The country programme of cooperation aims to achieve equitable outcomes for the poorest, most disadvantaged and hardest-to-reach children and families by working with partners to address policy, systems, and access to and demand for services at the national, subnational and community levels. The programme aims to respond to immediate humanitarian needs, but at the same time build resilience to further shocks and address development deficits. To achieve this, it is critical that funding remains flexible and is available for multiyear periods.

20. The programme is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Its outcomes contribute to furthering child rights in Lebanon, support national priorities in the new National Development Plan, national sectoral plans, the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) 2017–2020, the UNICEF Strategic Plan and Gender Action Plan, and the Sustainable Development Goals, as detailed in the results and resources framework (see annex). The Sustainable Development Goals present an opportunity to strengthen the focus of the country programme on child poverty, youth, urban programming, and social protection.

21. The 2017–2020 country programme of cooperation was drafted through a nationwide participatory process convening almost 700 government, civil society and United Nations stakeholders. This process had three stages: (a) a country-wide situation analysis and prioritization of children's vulnerabilities; (b) the development of national³¹ and inter-agency plans;³² and (c) the development of the programme as a strategic contribution to sector-wide shared results for children.

³¹ Reach All Children with Education (RACE) plan led by MEHE; and the National Plan for Child Protection led by MOSA.

³² UNSF 2017–2020.

22. The bedrock of the country programme is the regional priorities outlined in the No Lost Generation initiative and the UNICEF MENA³³ Regional Leadership Areas (RLA). No Lost Generation combines humanitarian, resilience and development interventions, focusing on the quality of services and increased access of children and adolescents to basic social services and opportunities for learning, development, protection and participation. UNICEF Lebanon will work with the Government and other partners to also identify opportunities for South-South cooperation within and beyond the MENA region.
23. The approach taken of equity and inclusion focuses on the needs of all disadvantaged children, irrespective of status and inclusive of migrant children. Such an approach in the country context is fundamental to contributing to social cohesion and stabilization. The programme aims for integration of the programme outcomes and convergence on the geographic areas (251 cadastres as of 2016) that house the most disadvantaged Lebanese and non-Lebanese children.
24. Support for individual and social change will be strengthened through Communication for Development (C4D) as a cross-cutting strategy to promote positive social norms and behaviours, demand for public services, and inclusive community engagement.
25. Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy for child rights will be focused on most critical issues for children in Lebanon, in particular immunization, access to safe water, learning outcomes, violence, child labour and child marriage, relevant secondary education, and child poverty.
26. The programme will aim to foster gender equality as a core component, focusing on removing identified gender barriers and bottlenecks and supporting an enabling environment. In line with the UNICEF global Gender Action Plan, the programme will prioritize targeted interventions to reduce gender-based violence and child marriage.
27. UNICEF and its partners will work across programme outcomes to gather robust data and mainstream the needs of children and youth with disabilities, planning evidence-based specific interventions to address their needs.
28. In the highly dense urban areas of Lebanon, UNICEF will continue to invest in evidence-gathering and partnerships that reach children at particular risk. Protection issues will be at the core, as well as the worst forms of abuse and exploitation, access to safe water, and nutrition.
29. Strategic partnerships will continue to build on the strengths of national and local government, complemented by civil society and academic institutions to build national capacity and resilience. A new component for the country programme will be private sector partnerships focused on the Children's Rights and Business Principles initiative.
30. Although the country programme is organized into traditional sectoral outcomes, allowing alignment with government line ministries, a key shift promoting integration will be a life-cycle approach with a focus on the following years: (0–5), primary (6–14), and adolescence and youth (15–24). Sectors will identify opportunities for integration through common gateways for service delivery, strong referral mechanisms, and monitoring systems.

³³ Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

31. UNICEF and its partners are committed to identification and promotion of innovation to advance results for children. Key priorities will be the expansion of a youth innovation network and real-time monitoring and accountability systems, using government, private sector and community resources.

Child survival

32. The child survival programme focuses on complementary interventions to increase access to safe water, adequate hygiene, immunization and improved child feeding practices. The programme will support the National Water Strategy and the National Wastewater Strategy for optimization of surface and groundwater, and data collection on climate change. Child morbidity and mortality will be addressed by supporting the next phase of the Ministry of Public Health's Response Strategy, focusing on routine immunization and nutrition, including IYCF.

33. The programme will aim to provide access to the most disadvantaged children; to safe drinking water, healthy environments, and enhanced health practices, by:

(a) supporting national and regional administrations to address water-related vulnerabilities for children, and promoting immunization and nutrition through strategic management and evidence generation;

(b) providing reliable access to services for safe drinking water, sanitation and wastewater treatment to the most disadvantaged children;

(c) providing support to the Ministry of Public Health to strengthen immunization and neonatal services and the promotion and enabling of exclusive breastfeeding;

(d) supporting community mobilization to develop local plans for water and health services, and assist networks to promote improved childcare practices in water, hygiene, immunization and nutrition.

Child development

34. The child development programme will strengthen the capacity of national education systems to be inclusive and equitable in the delivery of quality education services to the most disadvantaged children 3 to 18 years of age. The programme component will contribute directly to the national education plan, RACE II (2017–2021), with a specific focus on improving preschool and primary enrolment, as well as primary and secondary completion and transition rates.

35. The planned outcome will aim to provide all children 3 to 18 years of age with equitable access to relevant and inclusive quality learning and early development by:

(a) increasing demand for enrolment and retention in formal and non-formal education, and early development opportunities through engagement with parents, caregivers and community leaders;

(b) increasing capacity of the education system to deliver quality and inclusive education services in formal and non-formal settings, where non-formal and vocational education programmes for children serve as pathways to formal education and employment as per applicable Lebanese laws and regulations;

- (c) enhancing the governance and managerial capacity of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and other institutions to effectively plan, coordinate, implement, and monitor formal and non-formal education sector outcomes.

Child protection

36. The child protection programme will strengthen national, regional and community systems to protect the most-at-risk children and women from abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect. The programme component will contribute directly to the National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and the National Strategy for Child Protection and Prevention against All Forms of Violence, Abuse and Neglect. The programme will focus on reducing the worst forms of child labour, child marriage, domestic violence and violent discipline in homes, schools and communities. The Government and UNICEF will also maintain the prioritization of the Children and Armed Conflict agenda. The programme is complemented by the inter-agency humanitarian safety net initiative component of the Social Inclusion outcome below.

37. In 2017–2020, the planned outcome will see improved access and equitable prevention and response services for boys, girls and women at risk, and survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse, by:

- (a) strengthening the national capacity and accountability of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Public Health and the Higher Council for Childhood to legislate, plan and budget to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence, including gender-based violence, with special attention to intersectoral case management and referral mechanisms;

- (b) enhancing the access of boys, girls and women at risk and survivors to quality prevention and response services in the most disadvantaged localities, including family support networks, referrals, and diversion and alternative measures to detention;

- (c) supporting the capacities of children, families, and communities to protect themselves by enhancing the knowledge and skills of rights-holders, establishing formal community commitments, and supporting risk mitigation activities promoting practices and behaviours that protect children and women;

- (d) improving the knowledge base to better inform programme and advocacy initiatives by developing a comprehensive monitoring and reporting framework on violence against children and women at the national level, and the monitoring of grave child rights violations in situations of armed conflict and violence.

Youth development

38. The youth programme component will support the development and institutionalization of inclusive policies, services and learning opportunities for, and empowerment of, youth and adolescents.

39. The planned outcome is that, by 2020, most disadvantaged youths (15–24 years of age) increasingly influence policies and engage in quality learning, employment as per applicable Lebanese laws and regulations, and healthy lifestyles as a result of the following:

- (a) strengthening government capacity to implement and monitor inclusive youth policies for Lebanese and non-Lebanese youth;

(b) increasing access of Lebanese and non-Lebanese youth to technical and vocational training and innovative skills-building programmes for improved professional readiness and employability;

(c) increasing opportunities for participation and empowerment of Lebanese and non-Lebanese youth, enabling their healthy lifestyles and active engagement in their communities.

Social inclusion

40. The social inclusion programme component will provide opportunities, knowledge and resources to realize the rights of deprived and excluded children, women and their families. The programme component will work closely with all components above on evidence generation, public policy dialogue, child-sensitive social protection, and community engagement. UNICEF will be a key partner of the inter-agency humanitarian safety net initiative, which aims to reduce child poverty, multidimensional deprivation such as low school enrolment and school dropout, and negative child protection coping strategies such as child labour and child marriage.

41. The planned outcome is to reduce multidimensional child poverty in Lebanon with increased national- and community-level action for children, by:

(a) strengthening national and subnational capacities and systems for data collection and use, including on multidimensional child poverty and the rights of children and women;

(b) supporting national and subnational duty-bearers to develop inclusive national and local development agendas and reporting on the rights of children and women;

(c) strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders and humanitarian actors to be able to provide social protection that guarantees an agreed minimum standard of living and access to basic services for the most disadvantaged children;

(d) engaging with communities to advocate for positive behaviour and social change, and demand for essential services, made accessible to the most disadvantaged groups.

Summary budget table

Programme component	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Child survival	0 000	29 800	29 800
Child development	280	62 720	63 000
Child protection	600	10 600	11 200
Youth development	520	10 480	11 000
Social inclusion	940	1 550	2 490
Programme effectiveness	1 404	8 119	9 523
Total	3 744	123 269	127 013

Programme and risk management

42. The UNSF for Lebanon, to which the Lebanon-UNICEF country programme contributes, is to be governed through inter-agency and governmental structures with oversight by the Programme Management Team, reporting to the UNSF Steering Committee (Government and United Nations) and the United Nations Country Team.
43. Lebanon remains an unpredictable operating context socially, politically and economically. While donor response to the Syrian crisis continues to be encouraging, external variables may influence availability of financial resources to Lebanon, severely impacting programme delivery. The institutional capacity of ministries to continue to implement large-scale programming (inclusive of Syrians) may vary, and the financial ability of UNICEF to sustain sector support programmes may be threatened. To mitigate this, UNICEF will continue to include Lebanese communities and to anchor country programme investments in equity and system-strengthening. Continued diversification of the current donor base, with a focus on evidence-based advocacy and emphasis on cost efficiency and measurable results, is the best safeguard against decreasing resources.
44. UNICEF Lebanon has worked with its partners to jointly develop emergency preparedness plans in field locations, given an increase of social tension between Lebanese and Syrian communities, internal conflict between political factions, disease outbreaks, and weather-related disasters. This is coordinated at inter-agency and intersectoral levels and regularly monitored and adapted to changes on the ground.
45. Investments will be made to maximize the quality and efficacy of the programme in three ways: (a) strengthen the function and responsibility of five UNICEF zonal offices in Tripoli, Tyre, Zahle, Qobayat and Beirut, thereby consolidating gains made in area-based programming in a context of increased decentralization by and of government and national civil society organisations; (b) invest more resources directly into public systems, rather than into non-governmental organizations; and (c) reinforce institutional capacities of data collection/analysis and monitoring.
46. Regarding humanitarian coordination, UNICEF supports relevant line ministries (Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Higher Education) in their leadership of the education, child protection and energy and water sectors, and assists line ministries with the implementation of inter-agency plans with participating partners. Additionally, UNICEF will continue to provide support to the Ministry of Social Affairs for coordination and response regarding sexual and gender-based violence, and the Ministry of Public Health in nutrition.
47. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

Monitoring and evaluation

48. In cooperation with line ministries, other United Nations agencies and civil society, UNICEF will monitor progress made towards child rights realization, with a focus on measuring reduction of bottlenecks and barriers, in order to support an enabling environment, access to and demand for quality social services, and the strengthening of

existing national and subnational evidence. Specifically, UNICEF will focus on supporting the Central Administration Statistics in conducting household surveys, the Ministry of Health and Higher Education on EMIS development, and the Ministry of Social Affairs on the child protection information management system.

49. Programme monitoring is conducted through field monitoring, high-frequency and quarterly partner reporting as well as Third Party Monitoring. The outcomes of the country programme are monitored through regular surveys and evaluations. Direct feedback from affected populations is captured through regular focus group discussions and text messaging services.

50. Midyear and annual reviews with partners will be used to review progress made towards planned results, consolidate inputs into the UNSF and country programme monitoring and reporting, and inform strategic programme decisions. The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, complemented by a costed evaluation plan, will articulate all priority monitoring, research and evaluation activities. Five key evaluations will be conducted during 2017–2020 focused on non-formal education, youth, child protection, No Lost Generation cash transfer, and water and sanitation.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Lebanon-UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017–2020

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women: Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16 Sustainable Development Goals: Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16 National priorities: National Social Development Strategy (2011) objectives 1 and 3; RACE II 2016–2021; National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women; Health Sector Strategy; National Water Sector and the National Wastewater strategies	UNSF outcomes involving UNICEF: Outcome 2 (Outputs 2.1.2, 2.3.2, 2.3.5, 2.4.2). Outcome 3 (Outputs 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.6)
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: All outcomes and the Gender Action plan priorities 2 and 4	

UNICEF outcomes (by the end of 2020)	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
1. Child survival. Most disadvantaged children have access to safe drinking water, healthy environments, and enhanced health practices	1.a. % increase of disadvantaged households to access sustainable and safe drinking water in most disadvantaged areas (*LC1, LC2, LC3) Baseline: 0% Target (2020): 10%	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2018 and 2020	1.1. Government of Lebanon, at national and regional levels, has the evidence and management capacity to address child water-related vulnerabilities and improve child feeding practices 1.2. Access to safe drinking water, sanitation and environmental conditions are increased as a result of UNICEF direct support.	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), WHO, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Ministry of Environment	0	29 800	29 800 (OR-emergency [ORE] 119 200)
	1.b. % increase of most disadvantaged boys, girls, women and men with	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP)					

UNICEF outcomes (by the end of 2020)	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
2. Child development. Most disadvantaged children 3–18 benefit from equitable access to quality, relevant, and inclusive learning and early development	appropriate hygiene practices (*LC1, LC2, LC3) Baseline: KAP 2016 Target (2020): 60% of targeted population (in 40 most-in-need municipalities and 400 schools)	survey 2020	1.3. Children have increased access to routine immunization and exclusive breastfeeding services and promotion	(MOE), Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)			
	1.c. % of children < 1 year receiving measles-containing vaccines (*LC1) Baseline: 66.7% Target (2020): 90% nationally, 80% coverage in all districts	Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Cluster Survey by MOPH/WHO/UNICEF	1.4. Improved equitable use of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Health services through appropriate community-based mobilization				
	1.d. % of boys and girls 0–5 months who are exclusively breastfed (*LC1) Baseline: 14.9% Target (2020): 30%	MICS 2018 and 2020					
	2.a. % of children 3–5 attending public formal pre-primary (*LC1) Baseline: Lebanese: 26% Non-Lebanese: 19% Target (2020): Lebanese: 32% Non-Lebanese: 25%	MICS 2018 and MEHE	2.1. Increased demand and reduced cultural, financial and gender barriers for enrolment and retention into formal and non-formal education and early development opportunities for children 3–18		280	62 720	63 000 (252 000 ORE)
	2.b. % of children of primary school age who are out of school (*LC2) (**RLA) Baseline: Lebanese: 6.3% Non-Lebanese: 49%	MICS 2018 and MEHE	2.2. Increased capacity of education sector (formal and non-formal) to deliver quality opportunities for learning and development in inclusive environments	MEHE, non-governmental organizations (NGOs)			

UNICEF outcomes (by the end of 2020)	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
3. Child protection. Boys, girls and women at risk and survivors of violence exploitation and abuse have access to improved and equitable prevention and response	Children with disabilities: TBD (Disability study) Target: Lebanese: 3% Non-Lebanese: 20% Children with disabilities: TBD (Disability study)		2.3. Governance and managerial capacity of institutions are enhanced to effectively plan, deliver, and monitor education services (formal and non-formal)				
	2.c. Primary education completion rates (*LC2) Baseline: Lebanese: 90% Non-Lebanese: 20% Target: Lebanese: 95% Non-Lebanese: 50%	MICS 2018 and MEHE					
	3.a. % of children 2–14 who experience violent disciplinary practices (*LC1, LC2) Baseline: 57% Lebanese, Non-Lebanese 65% Target (2020): 30% reduction	MICS 2018 and 2020					
	3.b. % girls and women 15–49 who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife (*LC3) Baseline: Lebanese: 5.9%, Non Lebanese: 9.8% Target (2020): 20% reduction	MICS 2018 and 2020					
	3.c. % reduction in proportion boys and men 15–49 who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife (*LC3) Baseline: KAP 2016	KAP 2016 and MICS 2018 and 2020	3.1. Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity of social, justice, education and health sectors in Lebanon to legislate, plan, and budget to prevent and respond at scale to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect 3.2. Boys, girls and women at risk or survivors of violence have access to an integrated package of quality prevention and response services in most disadvantaged localities 3.3. Children, families and communities in most disadvantaged localities have increased capacities to promote practices that protect them	MOSA, Social Development Centres (SDC), Higher Council for Childhood (HCC), MOPH, Institute of Finance, MEHE, (I)NGO members of Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), UNHCR, ILO, UNFPA, WHO, Ministry of Labor (MOL), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), academia.	600	10 600	11 200 (ORE 44 800)

UNICEF outcomes (by the end of 2020)	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
4. Youth. Most disadvantaged youth (15-24) increasingly influence policies and engage in quality learning, employment, and healthy lifestyles	Target (2020): KAP 2020	MICS 2018 and 2020	3.4. Improved data and knowledge to inform programming and advocacy initiatives to prevent and protect children and women from violence, abuse and exploitation	Ministry of Youth and Sports, MEHE, Ministry of Agriculture, MOL, municipalities, NGOs, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, universities	520	10 480	11 000 (ORE 44 000)
	3.d. % of women (20-24) married before age 18 (*LC3) Baseline: Lebanese: 11.1%; Non-Lebanese: 31.9% Target (2020): 20% in targeted communities						
	3.e. % of children (5-14) engaged in child labour (*LC2) Baseline: Lebanese: 4.6%; Non-Lebanese: 5.7% Target (2020): 20% reduction, Lebanese: 3.6%; Non-Lebanese: 4.5	Ministry of Justice (MOJ) database and Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS)					
	3.f. Reduction of children in detention per 100,000 child population (*LC1, LC2, LC3) (**RLA) Baseline: 12 (from post-trial) Target (2020): 9 (30% reduction)	MOJ Database, MOIM database					
4.1. Strengthened government capacity to implement and monitor inclusive youth policies for Lebanese and Non-Lebanese youth	4.a. % of youth (15-24), who reported participating and influencing decisions in central and local engagement mechanisms (*LC3) Baseline: Youth Opinion Poll (2017) Target: 10% increase (out of most disadvantaged population) 50% male/female (10%, approx. 50,000)	Youth Opinion Poll 2017 and 2020	4.1. Strengthened government capacity to implement and monitor inclusive youth policies for Lebanese and Non-Lebanese youth	Ministry of Youth and Sports, MEHE, Ministry of Agriculture, MOL, municipalities, NGOs, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, universities	520	10 480	11 000 (ORE 44 000)
	4.2. Increased access of Lebanese and Non-Lebanese youth (15-24) to technical and vocational training and innovative skills building programmes for improved professional readiness and employability						

UNICEF outcomes (by the end of 2020)	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
5. Social inclusion. Multidimensional child poverty is reduced with increased national- and community-level action for children	4.b. % of youth (15–24) not in education, employment or training (*LC3) Baseline: Labour Force Survey (2017) Target: 50% of most disadvantaged youth	LFS (ILO), MICS 2018 and MICS 2020	4.3. Increased opportunities for participation and empowerment of Lebanese and Non-Lebanese youth enabling their healthy lifestyles and active engagement in their communities				
	4.c. % of youth (15–24) who acquire knowledge and attitudes for healthy lifestyles and non-violent behaviours (*LC3) Baseline: KAP 2016 Target: 30% increase for healthy lifestyles (out of most disadvantaged population)	KAP surveys					
	5.a. % of children who are multidimensionally poor (*LC1, LC2, LC3) Baseline: 40% Lebanese, 70% Non-Lebanese Target (2020): 15% Lebanese, 45% Non-Lebanese	MICS, Household expenditure, LFS, Multi Dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI)	5.1. National and subnational capacities and systems are strengthened for data collection and analysing multidimensional child poverty and the rights of children and women 5.2. National and subnational duty-bearers have increased capacity to develop inclusive national and local development agendas (i.e., policies, programmes, budgets) and report on child rights obligations (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Universal Periodic Review and Convention on the Rights of	Prime Minister Office (PMO), NPTP, Central Administration of Statistics (CAS), HCC, line ministries; Governorates, Regional ministries and municipalities; UNHCR, WFP, Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC), community-based organizations, youth and children; World Bank; United Nations Country Team, Lebanese	940	1 550	2 490 (ORE 186 279)
	5.b. # of poor Lebanese children covered by social protection system (*LC1, LC2, LC3) (**RLA) Baseline: 288,000 children (fee waivers for school and 70% health care costs) Target (2020): 375,000 children	National Poverty Targeting Program					
	5.c. # of poor non-Lebanese	Refugee Assistance					

UNICEF outcomes (by the end of 2020)	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	children covered by cash transfers in emergencies (*LC1, LC2, LC3) (**RLA) Baseline: 175,000 during winter Target (yearly): 50,000 children for education (starting school year 2017-2018) and 100,000 during winter (starting winter 2017-2018)	Information System	Persons with Disabilities) 5.3. Capacity of national stakeholders and humanitarian actors enhanced to provide social protection provisions that guarantee an agreed minimum standard of living and access to basic services for all children	Council of Disabled People			
	5.d. % of 2016 Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations implemented Baseline: 0% Target (2020): 50%	Committee report	5.4. Strengthened partnerships and community engagement to advocate for behavioural social change, and demand for essential services among the most disadvantaged				
	5.e. % increase in positive (or healthy) behaviour and social norms that protect child rights Baseline: KAP 2016 Target (2020): 30% points increase	KAP Surveys					
	6.a. # of programme-initiated campaigns supported Baseline: 2 Target (yearly): 3 6.b. # of participatory annual reviews conducted during programme cycle at national and subnational levels Baseline: National/Subnational (yearly): 1/0 Target:	Lebanon country office annual reports Annual reviews	6.1 Programme coordination - Deputy Representative: UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes 6.2 External Relations - UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders		1 404	8 119	9 523 (ORE 48 050)
6. The country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children				Line ministries, (inter-)national NGOs, youth organizations, private sector, United Nations agencies, UNICEF headquarters and regional office, (Inter-)national media outlets, National			

UNICEF outcomes (by the end of 2020)	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	National/Subnational (yearly): 1/8		6.3 Capacity of UNICEF and partners for rights and gender-based effective programming and results-based management	Committees for UNICEF, donors			
	6.c. Outstanding DCT > 9 months < 1% Baseline: 0 Target: <1%	InSight Monthly Reports	6.4 Capacity of UNICEF and partners to implement mass communication campaigns, media outreach, and UNICEF and donor visibility				
	6.d. % of funds received as OR against appealed funds Baseline: 100% Target: 75%	Monthly SitRep	6.5 Cross-cutting: Operations – Cost-effective, and quality operational support provided				
			6.6 Cross-cutting: Field Operations – Improved accountability for achieving results at field office levels				
			6.7 Cross-cutting: Humanitarian Coordination – Effective leadership and coordination of sectors under UNICEF responsibility				
Total resources					3 744	123 269	127 013 (ORE: 694 329)

* Life Cycle Approach: LC1 is life cycle stage one (0–5 years), LC2 is life cycle stage two (6–14 years) and LC3 is life cycle stage three (15–24 years).
 **RLA stands for Regional Leadership Area, as identified by UNICEF MENA.

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document**Morocco****Summary**

The country programme document (CPD) for Morocco is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$8,500,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$24,800,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.



Programme rationale

1. The 2011 Constitution laid the foundation for a more open, democratic and modern society and institutions and represents an unprecedented opportunity for the realization of child rights in Morocco. The Constitution recognizes the supremacy of international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child over national laws, sets up independent monitoring bodies, and confirms that the State must provide equal protection and equal social and moral consideration to all children, irrespective of their family situation. Within this framework, the Government launched justice, education, decentralization and social protection reforms in 2014-2015 that provide the space for renewed engagement with UNICEF to enhance investment in child well-being.
2. Morocco is a lower-middle-income country and the fifth largest African economy.¹ The country has European Union (EU) neighbourhood status and actively seeks South-South cooperation. From 2010 to 2015, the gross domestic product (GDP) grew by around 4 per cent annually.² Fiscal consolidation and sustainability are a priority, and subsidies and pension systems are undergoing reform.
3. The population was 33.8 million in 2014, with 60 per cent of people living in urban areas. The total fertility rate was 2.2 children. From 2004 to 2014, the population grew by approximately 1.3 per cent each year. The share of children in the population progressively decreased to 34 per cent, but the proportion of children under five remained at around 10 per cent. Children and young people aged 15 to 24 number approximately 6.2 million, or 19 per cent of the population. Adolescents in the second decade of life make up 18 per cent of the population.³
4. Economic growth, urbanization and government action have improved social indicators. The proportion of the population living in absolute poverty fell from 8.9 per cent in 2007 to 4.2 per cent in 2014. Nevertheless, 1.4 million Moroccans are living in absolute poverty, and 3.9 million people are vulnerable to poverty. There are major socio-economic disparities between regions and between urban and rural areas. Monetary and multidimensional poverty rates are respectively 5 and 16 times higher in the least developed regions than in the region of Casablanca, which has the lowest prevalence of poverty.⁴
5. Children constitute an estimated 1.8 million of the poor and vulnerable people in Morocco.⁵ Inequality of opportunities is particularly evident during the early years and adolescence — a point also underlined by children during a consultation held with them in 2016 on the country programme priorities. In both age groups, children — especially girls — from rural and poor urban areas, children with disabilities and migrant children are the most vulnerable. A fragmented and incomplete social protection system fails to address the needs of children, particularly the most vulnerable.⁶

¹ World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI), 2016.

² WDI, 2016.

³ All data in this paragraph from the High Commission for Planning (HCP), 2014.

⁴ HCP, 2014.

⁵ UNICEF estimate, 2014.

⁶ Economic Policy Research Institute, 'Social Protection Mapping in Morocco' (unpublished) 2015.

6. Although Morocco nearly achieved Millennium Development Goal 4, in 2015 the under-five mortality rate was 27.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, corresponding to around 20,000 under-five deaths each year.⁷ Two thirds of these deaths occur in the neonatal period, mainly due to the lack of proper antenatal or delivery care by qualified staff. In rural areas, only 55 per cent of births are attended by skilled personnel compared to 92 per cent in urban areas. Coverage of postnatal care in rural areas is only 14 per cent.⁸ In 2011, 15 per cent of children under age 5 were stunted.⁹

7. Meanwhile, the rigid organization by separate compartments of the health system is a major barrier to addressing a wider range of issues that often require intra- and intersectoral cooperation. Strategies are needed for the early detection and follow-up of disabilities in accordance with the social model, and for largely-ignored adolescent health issues, including mental health, risky behaviour, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

8. Morocco does not have a comprehensive strategy for early childhood development (ECD) as yet. However, for the first time, early learning is prioritized in the new education strategy that was presented in 2015. In 2014, the preschool enrolment rate was 64 per cent.¹⁰ However, the public sector provision represents only 10 per cent of the total. Among rural girls, enrolment was only 23 per cent.¹¹ Starting from 2016/17, one year of pre-primary education has been made compulsory. Ensuring universal access will require major efforts, not only in improving infrastructure, but also in developing standards, including for inspection, regularizing the co-existence of formal preschool and community-based models, and raising awareness among parents and decision-makers of the importance of investing in the early years.

9. Despite increased access to basic education, an estimated 250,000 children aged 6 to 14, including one third of rural girls, are out of school. Drop-out levels are high (10 per cent in lower secondary school),¹² particularly for children with disabilities, 66 per cent of whom are out of school.¹³ Enrolment in upper secondary education is only 61 per cent.¹⁴ Migrant children, particularly those of secondary school age, only have access to unaccredited non-formal education.

10. National and international assessments confirm low learning outcomes: only one third of primary schoolchildren master basic competencies in mathematics, science and literacy.¹⁵ The lack of quality and inclusive programmes, insufficient equity-sensitive, school-based monitoring and actions, and inadequate monitoring of learning outcomes at all levels constitute major barriers to effective learning and to higher retention and completion rates.

⁷ Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, 2015.

⁸ UNICEF and National Observatory of Children's Rights (ONDE), 2015.

⁹ UNICEF and ONDE, 2015.

¹⁰ Ministry of Education (MoE), 2015.

¹¹ MoE, 2015.

¹² MoE, 2014.

¹³ HPC, 2014.

¹⁴ MoE, 2014.

¹⁵ National Programme for the Evaluation of the Education Achievements, 2010 and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, 2011.

11. At secondary level, gaps in preparing adolescents and youth for work and life after school contribute to a very high risk of social exclusion among young Moroccans — especially girls — from lower socioeconomic groups, poorer regions and rural areas. National data suggest that as many as 30 per cent of 15- to 24-year-olds were not in education, employment or training in 2013.¹⁶ The youth unemployment rate for that age group reached 21 per cent in 2015.¹⁷
12. The Ministry of Education's Strategic Vision of the Reform 2015-2030 aims to reduce equity gaps in access, improve the quality of learning and address school-to-work transition. This represents a national contribution to meeting the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 4. Active citizenship and climate change are among the areas to be addressed through the development of life skills-based education in response to Goals 8 and 13.
13. An estimated 100,000 children live in institutions, mainly due to poverty. These institutions are poorly funded and monitored and do not meet international standards. Foster care is underdeveloped while the adoption system is insufficiently monitored and open to abuse.¹⁸ Children born out of wedlock risk not being registered at birth, abandoned or placed in institutions.¹⁹
14. The number of children on the move (refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants) is increasing as Morocco shifts from being a transit country to a destination country. Although government policy envisages a dynamic migration management model with mechanisms to prevent trafficking and to protect victims, these children remain invisible in practice, deprived of basic rights, at risk of exploitation and violence, and with little or no access to child protection systems.
15. Violence against children and against and among adolescents is widespread in homes, schools and other settings.²⁰ Sexual and gender-based violence is a concern, including against adolescent girls employed as domestic workers.²¹ Normative arrangements, institutional capacities, coordination and human resources are insufficient for prevention, identification and referral and case management. The proportion of child marriages as a share of total marriages increased from 8 per cent in 2004 to 11 per cent in 2013, involving 35,152 children, 99 per cent of whom are girls.²² In 2015, an estimated 69,000 children aged 7 to 14 (1.5 per cent of that age group) were working.²³ Social norms may condone child labour and there is no effective intervention framework.
16. The number of children in contact with the law was 62,000 in 2013, including 21,754 alleged offenders.²⁴ Moreover, an estimated 10 per cent to 15 per cent of terrorism cases involved minors.²⁵ Although ongoing justice reform has a juvenile justice dimension, adolescents face lengthy procedures and pre-trial detention, and

¹⁶ HCP, 2013.

¹⁷ HCP, 2014.

¹⁸ UNICEF and Entraide Nationale, 2014; and Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2014.

¹⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2014.

²⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2014.

²¹ UNICEF and National Human Rights Council (CNDH), 2014.

²² Ministry of Justice and Liberties (MJL), 2013.

²³ HCP, 2015.

²⁴ MJL, 2013.

²⁵ Seminar organized by "Amicale Hassania" Judges' Association, March 2016.

restorative measures are used infrequently.²⁶ Conditions in detention and rehabilitation centres vary and access to justice and legal aid is limited. Insufficient attention is paid to the needs and rights of children in contact with the law.²⁷

17. The Integrated Child Protection Policy was launched in 2015 and an interministerial committee established to oversee its implementation. Meanwhile, the role of the National Human Rights Council has been reinforced, paving the way for independent child rights monitoring and supporting the ongoing process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. Even so, the normative and institutional framework for child rights suffers from weak implementation and lack of effective independent monitoring, especially at subnational level.

18. More timely and disaggregated data are needed to monitor the situation of the most vulnerable children, especially children with disabilities, children who have experienced violence or abuse, children exploited in domestic work, children living on the street and child migrants. There is also limited technical capacity to measure child poverty regularly at the national and subnational levels.

19. Public social spending has increased over the past decades, but remains low by international standards. In 2013, public expenditure on health was about 2 per cent of GDP (6 per cent of total government expenditure), and out-of-pocket spending accounted for three-fifths of the total national health expenditure.²⁸ There is little capacity to monitor public expenditure for children.

20. The country's decentralization process, which will gradually make the subnational (regional) level the appropriate level for the harmonization of public policies, offers a strategic opportunity to influence social policy planning at the regional level so as to reduce inequalities, improve children's living conditions and accelerate efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 10 from a child-sensitive perspective.

21. The Constitution affirms the right to participation, but young people, especially girls, still have few actual opportunities for participation and civic engagement, for example in social policy planning and decision-making. The context of decentralization reform represents an appropriate opportunity for greater participation by youth and adolescents in social policy planning and implementation.

22. Two key lessons were learned from the midterm review in 2014. First, the programme had to reorient itself to leverage the opportunities provided by the decentralization reform. UNICEF needs to work more closely with subnational actors to support implementation of the normative frameworks developed at national level, and to support the meaningful participation of youth and adolescents in local processes. Second, a broad range of partnerships, involving civil society organizations (CSOs) and consultative and rights monitoring bodies, is necessary not only to bring about policy reform but also to have these reforms internalized into national and local systems and processes.

²⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2014.

²⁷ CNDH, 2013.

²⁸ World Bank, 2016.

Programme priorities and partnerships

23. The Government of Morocco-UNICEF country programme for 2017-2021 contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals²⁹, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and the government's development priorities.
24. The programme aims to uphold the rights of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and adolescents by removing the existing barriers and bottlenecks to the achievement of results, strengthening partnerships and harnessing the best technical expertise to address the country's development challenges.
25. The overall focus of the programme is on the two age groups that are currently most underserved, and among whom inequalities in development opportunities are largely manifested, namely, early childhood (ages 0-5) and adolescence. The programme helps disadvantaged young children to benefit from a first chance in life, with access to quality ECD services, and helps vulnerable adolescents to obtain a second chance, mainly by supporting their access to professional training and life skills programmes. The rights of children with disabilities and children experiencing or at risk of violence will be highlighted across the programme and addressed across the different interventions. Care will be taken to implement the entire programme in a gender-sensitive manner, with gender equality emphasized throughout its implementation.
26. The programme emphasizes systems-building and policy dialogue at the national level and provides support to making decentralization most effective for children. Where modelling is required, it will prioritize the most disadvantaged regions, which will be identified through data and analysis and in consultation with national and subnational actors.
27. Effective partnerships will be crucial for achieving programme results. Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and key line ministries will be reinforced by interaction with high-level policy and decision-making bodies. The programme will mobilize the capacities and expertise of the private sector, academia, the media, non-government organizations (NGO), foundations and communities, including religious groups. Collaboration among United Nations agencies and dialogue with the European Union, the World Bank and other international organizations will be maximized to leverage results. The country programme will continue to promote, support and benefit from the exchange of knowledge and good practices for children between the institutions of Morocco and their international counterparts, and will continue to facilitate the sharing of expertise through South-South and triangular cooperation.
28. Given growing Internet use among adolescents and young people, investments in digital engagement will enlarge the public space for advocacy and inform and influence social movements. The programme will encourage and benefit from social responsibility among corporations and universities. Appropriate use will be made of communication for development (C4D) strategies, to reinforce the demand from rights-holders and to promote attitudinal change in support of intersectoral priorities

²⁹ The programme will support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

and programme principles such as gender equality, violence prevention and adolescent participation and empowerment.

Health

29. This component will support the transition to a child health policy that goes beyond vertical, survival-oriented programmes. Accelerated child mortality reduction will be supported by addressing the bottlenecks that prevent full coverage of quality perinatal health care, nutrition and immunization services, and by promoting communication about breastfeeding and nutrition (including the use of iodized salt) through strengthened subnational and community mobilization in the most deprived locations. Meanwhile, the exchange of knowledge and practices will be promoted, policy dialogue pursued and intersectoral linkages facilitated. The use of modelling will facilitate the adoption and equitable implementation of a wide-ranging, integrated child health policy, which includes services for adolescents. Special attention will be paid to the early detection of disabilities.

30. The beneficiaries of the health component will be mothers, newborns and girls and boys of all ages, especially those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and those living in remote geographical locations.³⁰ The social determinants of health will be identified and the use of data and evidence supported to reduce inequities in access to health services and contribute to alternative health-care solutions for hard-to-reach populations.

31. The main partner will be the Ministry of Health. Linkages will be built with other sectors at the national and local level, including with the ministries of Education and Social Affairs related to ECD, violence prevention and children with disabilities. Partnerships will be sought with the private sector, including for C4D interventions and distance training. Close cooperation, including joint programming where relevant, will continue with the World Health Organization (on system reform), the United Nations Population Fund (on maternal health) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Education

32. This component will contribute to education policies and strategies that ensure equitable access and completion at all levels of education for the most marginalized children (in terms of sex, ability, region, rural/urban location and socioeconomic background), in line with the Ministry of Education's Strategic Vision of the Reform 2015-2030 and related action plan.

33. Through the provision of technical support, standards, norms and economic models will be developed to provide timely and equitable access to quality preschool education, and to mobilize parents through communications and parenting education. Advocacy will continue for an integrated ECD policy that includes budgeting and implementation mechanisms.

34. The capacity of the Ministry of Education and of schools to monitor out-of-school children and children in basic education and at risk of dropout will be

³⁰ As identified in the Ministry of Health Acceleration Plan, 2013.

enhanced. The capacity of the Ministry to develop responses articulated around second-chance schooling and adaptation of the school environment for vulnerable children (including children with disabilities and migrant children) will also be strengthened. In secondary education, the programme will support the development of multiple pathway education programmes that bridge formal, non-formal and vocational training systems for better school-to-work transition.

35. Life-skills and citizenship education programmes will be modelled to ensure that marginalized children and youth benefit from relevant and quality learning while enhancing their employability and active citizenship, including with respect to climate change. A national life skills framework will be developed, and will include monitoring and capacity development systems.

36. The school-based monitoring and management model for equity in access and learning, developed during the current cycle of cooperation, will be scaled up through expanded partnerships, advocacy and communications.

37. The Ministry of Education will be the main partner. Linkages with other sectors and collaboration with the private sector and NGOs will be essential in order to address the issues related to out-of-school children, early childhood, adolescence and disability. The private sector will be approached to support investment in preschool facilities, water, sanitation and hygiene, green schools and life skills-related employment schemes. Partnerships will be developed with academia for knowledge and evidence generation. Dialogue will be maintained with the European Union, Global Affairs Canada, the Department for International Development (United Kingdom), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank.

Protection

38. This component will strengthen policies and systems for protecting all children, including children deprived of parental care, adolescents in contact with the law, children on the move, and child victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, in line with international standards and the Integrated Public Policy for Child Protection.

39. The justice for children system, including the role of judges, will be strengthened through legislative advocacy, capacity-building and intersectoral cooperation, particularly for diversion and alternative measures, the treatment of child victims and reintegration following detention. The development of local child protection systems capable of identification, referral and case management of children at risk will be supported, and will involve non-governmental actors. Technical expertise and advocacy will be provided for the adoption of national alternative care standards and norms, emphasizing deinstitutionalization, particularly of children under three. Capacity for implementation will be developed, especially through standardization of the social work profession and the development of social care mechanisms that support the ongoing reform of *Entraide Nationale*. Communication for development approaches will address social attitudes and behaviours related to violence and child marriage.

40. Complementing the social inclusion component, the partnerships established for child protection with NGOs and networks and monitoring institutions like the

National Human Rights Council (including its national training centre) will also enhance child rights monitoring. UNICEF and the Government will continue their dialogue on implementing the recommendations of the 2014 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. These efforts will contribute to results under all programme components and to the realization of all child rights.

41. Besides the Ministry of Justice and Liberties and the Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, other sectors like education and health, and monitoring institutions and civil society are key partners for this programme component. South-South and triangular cooperation is anticipated, including in efforts to combat violence against children.³¹ The EU will be an important partner for justice for children. Cooperation will also be strengthened with the Council of Europe.

Social inclusion

42. This component will contribute to policies and systems for reducing child poverty and vulnerability. It will support the development of equity focused, child-sensitive social and social protection policies and social spending, nationally and regionally, and contribute to their monitoring and assessment. The beneficiaries will include children in rural and disadvantaged urban areas, children with disabilities, young children not attending preschool, migrants and socioeconomically disadvantaged adolescents.

43. Advocacy and technical expertise will be deployed to support national partners (the High Commission for Planning and the National Observatory of Human Development) to produce regular, child-specific disaggregated data on multidimensional poverty, deprivation and vulnerability. Rural/urban and intra-urban disparities in child well-being will be studied to inform specific responses. A multisectoral policy dialogue, coordinated by the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance, will identify the characteristics of an integrated, child rights-sensitive social protection system and the specific interventions that will target the most vulnerable. Capacity for implementation and monitoring will be developed through technical support and international partnerships. Through multisectoral collaboration including the Ministry of Economy and Finance, steps will be taken to regularly monitor the adequacy, efficiency and equity of public expenditures for children.

44. Technical support will be provided to strengthen the capacities of subnational and local institutions (including regional councils) to undertake planning of social policy that is child sensitive and equity-focused. Adolescents and youths will be empowered so that they can participate in the planning, monitoring and implementation of social policy at local and regional levels.

45. In addition to the key line ministries and regional councils previously mentioned, this component will benefit from collaboration with regional agencies, academic institutions and the National Initiative for Human Development, and from dialogue with the World Bank.

46. The results under all programme components will be supported through the monitoring and improvement of public expenditure for children, including support

³¹ The UNICEF country office will support national counterparts in applying to the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

for costing key priorities in ECD and child protection. The partnerships developed and data and evidence generated will facilitate monitoring of programme results, child rights and progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme effectiveness

47. The programme effectiveness outcome will cover: (a) programme coordination and partnerships; (b) external relations, communication and advocacy; (c) programme monitoring and evaluation, and (d) cross-sectoral actions such as disaster risk reduction and support to operations, as required for the successful overall implementation of the partnership and the achievement of results in a context of growing and increasingly complex external resource mobilization.

Summary budget table

Programme component	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Health	1 700	2 500	4 200
Education	1 700	8 100	9 800
Protection	1 400	7 100	8 500
Social inclusion	2 000	5 300	7 300
Programme effectiveness	1 700	1 800	3 500
Total	8 500	24 800	33 300

Programme and risk management

48. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national results for children, and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

49. The management of the cooperation programme will be under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The sectors leading the implementation of programme components will coordinate activities through workplan review committees, joint- or area-specific programme steering committees and UNDAF outcome groups. Non-governmental organizations and private sector stakeholders will participate in these coordination mechanisms.

50. Risks to programme implementation and the achievement of results may arise from international instability, economic downturn or fundraising challenges. These will be mitigated through actions identified by regular risk management exercises. The harmonized approach to cash transfers and donor contribution management will be monitored closely.

Monitoring and evaluation

51. Progress towards the achievement of country programme results will be monitored based on the integrated results and resources framework and using mechanisms and tools in accordance with UNICEF and United Nations Development Group guidelines, especially workplans, quarterly/annual reports and mid-year/annual reviews.
52. The annual reports will contain information about the implementation of workplans and the achievement of the milestones and targets at output level. Mid-year and annual reviews will provide opportunities to discuss progress made towards outcomes with national partners. Both mechanisms will guide decisions about programme and strategy adjustments.
53. The annual Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plans and the Costed Evaluation Plan will specify the priorities for monitoring, data collection, research and evaluation. Three components of the country programme will be evaluated: school-to-work transition; justice for children; and health.
54. Special attention will be paid to data quality assurance at all stages of monitoring and evaluation. Regular field visits will be conducted to assess the quality of data provided by implementing partners, and to enhance their capacities for results-based management and reporting.
55. UNICEF will provide technical and financial support for the development of national capacities for evidence generation, monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and the strengthening of national information systems and their use as the main source of disaggregated data at national and subnational levels.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Government of Morocco — UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 6 and 24						
National priority: Universal health coverage and reducing inequities in term of access to services. (Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 10)						
UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNICEF:						
Outcome 3: Quality and accessible comprehensive health-care services strengthen the health coverage of the population.						
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): 1						
UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)	
Health					RR	OR
By 2021, inequities in access to quality integrated child health interventions are reduced.	1. Percentage (%) of births from mothers who have completed at least four antenatal care visits B: (2011) National 43% Rural 25% Urban: 60% T: National: 65% Rural 40% Urban 90% 2. % of live births attended by skilled health personnel B: (2011) National 73% Rural 55% Urban: 91% T: National: 92% Rural 85% Urban 99% 3. % of mothers who attended at least one postnatal care visit in the 40 days after the delivery B: (2011) National: 22%	National Health Information System National Population and Family Health Survey	1. National capacity to develop an integrated child health policy and its regional action plans based on child rights, the life cycle and inequities in social health determinants is enhanced. 2. Institutional local actors and civil society have strengthened capacity to provide standardized low-cost, high-impact interventions in nutrition, integrated childcare and health education in the most deprived regions.	Ministry of Health (MOH) National School of Public Health Higher Institute of Nurses Professions and Health Techniques NGOs	1 700	2 500
						4 200

	Rural: 14% Urban: 31% T: National: 80% Rural: 65% Urban: 95%								
	4. Exclusive breastfeeding at 0-5 months B: (2006) 50% T: 60%								

Relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 6, 23 and 29

National priority: Strategic vision of school reform 2015–2030 (Sustainable Development Goals: 4, 5 and 10)

UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNICEF:						
Outcome 4: Universal access to quality, fair and inclusive education and training is assured.						
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): 5						
<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome (in thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
					RR	Total
Education By 2021, education policies and strategies ensure equitable access and completion for the most marginalized in terms of sex, geography and ability.	1. Preschool enrolment rates B: (2015) \$3.4%; T: 70% 2. Lower secondary education completion rate B: (2015) 60.4% T: 85% 3. Enrolment in post-basic education B: (2015) 61.1 % T: 75%	National Education Information System Household panel survey reports	1. National partners have enhanced capacity to extend access to preschool, basic and post-basic education to the most vulnerable children. 2. National partners have increased capacity to provide quality learning through life skills education. 3. The education system has strengthened capacity to implement school-based monitoring and action that improves equitable access, completion and school-to-work transition	Ministry of Education Regional Academies for Education and Training Universities and Research centres Higher Council for Education, Training, and Scientific Research NGOs	1 700	8 100
						9 800

Relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 7, 9, 11, 16, 19, 21–23, 32–35, 37, 39–40 National priority : Democratic governance and advanced regionalization (Sustainable Development Goals: 10 and 16)					
UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNICEF: Outcome 1: Institutional partners and civil society partners implement the advanced regionalization process and the principles for democratic governance that are participatory, gender-responsive and based on human rights, as set out in the Constitution and international commitments. Outcome 5: Public policies and national strategies reduce spatial, socioeconomic and gender inequalities.					
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): 6					
UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome (in thousands of United States dollars)
					RR OR Total
Protection By 2021, national policies and systems better protect children deprived of family protection in line with international norms and the National Integrated Child Protection Policy	1. Proportion of children (older than the minimum age of criminal responsibility) in conflict with the law diverted from formal judicial proceedings B: (2014): 0% T: 3% 2. Proportion of children (older than the minimum age of criminal responsibility) in conflict with the law benefiting from non-residential alternatives to arrest and detention (pre-trial and trial). B: (2014): 26% T: 40% 3. Children in detention per 100,000 child population B: (2013): 41 T: 29	National Information System (Ministry of Justice and Liberties (MJL)) Strategies and policy reports	1. National capacity to apply child-friendly proceedings, alternatives to detention and diversion in line with international norms is enhanced. 2. National and local partners have increased capacity to provide systematic identification, case management and appropriate follow-up of child victims or children at risk. 3. Independent institutions, Government and civil society have strengthened capacity to monitor child rights in line with international norms. 4. National capacity to provide alternative care and deinstitutionalization of children is enhanced based on agreed standards and guidelines.	Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development (MSWFSD) MJL MOH National Human Rights Council (CNDH) Interministerial delegation for human rights Entraide National NGOs	1 400 7 100 8 500

4. Children in institutions per 100,000 child population B (2014): 868 T: 651										
Relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 4, 26–27										
National priority: Economic inclusion and reduction of inequalities and vulnerabilities (Sustainable Development Goals: 1 and 10)										
UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNICEF:										
Outcome 5: Public policies and national strategies reduce spatial, socioeconomic and gender inequalities.										
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): 7										
UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome (in thousands of United States dollars)					
					RR	OR	Total			
Social inclusion By 2021, child poverty and well-being are regularly monitored, and social policies, especially social protection systems, are strengthened to favour the social inclusion of vulnerable girls and boys* at the national and decentralized levels. (* = especially preschool- age children, children with disabilities, migrants and children living in rural areas)	1. Number of social policies with a budget allocation dedicated expressly to child poverty and disparities reduction. B (2015):0 T: 3 in 2021 2. Existence of social protection system sensitive to the vulnerabilities of children. B (2015): No; T: Yes in 2021 3. Public social protection expenditure for children (% of GDP) B: (2010/11): 0.06% T: 0.1% in 2021 4. Existence of a mechanism to provide a regular child poverty measurement B: (2015) No T: Yes in 2021	Sectoral finance reports Social protection policy document Sectoral finance reports and international reports (of the International Labour Organization, Social Protection Department database, World Bank and UNICEF) Child poverty study using the National Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Approach (N-MODA) and Sustainable Development Goals reports	1. Data and analytical evidence on child well-being, multidimensional poverty and vulnerability, disaggregated by sex, geographical areas and disability status, are regularly available to inform policy and monitor progress towards the child-relevant Sustainable Development Goals. 2. Public expenditure in social sectors* is regularly monitored to ensure adequacy, efficiency and equity for children needs. (*= preschool; health; and justice for children) 3. National partners have enhanced capacity to ensure that the national social protection system provides appropriate responses to the needs of vulnerable children 4. Capacities of subnational institutions are enhanced for child-sensitive and participatory social policy planning to support vulnerable girls and boys.	Ministry of Economy and Finance National Observatory of Human Development Ministry of General Affairs and Governance High Commission for Planning (HCP) Regional councils World Bank	2 000	5 300	7 300			

Programme effectiveness							
UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome (in thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
Programme effectiveness Country programmes are efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.	1. % of outcomes and outputs that are annually reported as either on track or achieved B: N/A T: >75% 2. % of evaluation recommendations implemented, closed and reported within one year from the completion of the evaluation B: N/A T: >80% 3. % of donor reports submitted on time B: 100% T: 100%	Country office annual report Management Response System AR	1. Programme coordination and partnerships: UNICEF staff and partners are provided with guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes. 2. External relations and communication: UNICEF staff and partners are provided with tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders. 3. Programme planning and monitoring: UNICEF staff and partners are provided with guidance, tools and resources to effectively plan and monitor programmes. 4. Cross-sectoral strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.	Media CSOs Private sector Youth networks National institutions	1 700	1 800	3 500
Total resources					8 500	24 800	33 300